

WHOLE NO. 9756.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1863.

PRICE THREE CENTS

VICKSBURG.

IMPORTANT NAVAL OPERATION.

The Destruction of the Yazoo City Navy Yard Confirmed.

Three Powerful Steamers and a Monster Iron-Clad Rebel Ram Destroyed.

Over Two Millions Worth of Property Lost to the Rebels.

Gen. Banks Reported Co-operating with Gen. Grant.

Col. Grierson Makes Another Successful Raid, Capturing and Destroying a Large Rebel Camp.

THE BATTLE OF CHAMPION HILL.

The Terrific Struggle of Mont St. Jean at Waterloo Re-enacted at Champion Hill.

CONTEST AT THE BLACK RIVER BRIDGE.

Bombardment of the City and Attack Upon the Works.

THE CASUALTIES AMONG THE OFFICERS, &c., &c., &c.

The Washington Telegrams.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1863. Official despatches were received here to-day from the army of General Grant, dated on the 26th. They represent that there had been no material change in affairs there since the 25th.

On the evening of that day General Pemberton asked for two and a half hours' truce to bury his dead, which was given.

There is no truth in the rumored death of Gen. Steele.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1863. The government has no intelligence from Vicksburg later than the 26th inst., when everything was progressing favorably for Gen. Grant. The silence in the meantime of the Richmond papers is an augury that there has been nothing occurred to give encouragement to the rebels.

The President has stated that Vicksburg may be taken by our troops by assault, but it is thought better to accomplish the object with as little loss of men as possible.

RECEIVED FROM GENERAL GRANT'S ARMY TO-DAY.

THE CAIRO TELEGRAMS.

CAIRO, May 31, 1863.

The despatch from New National, from Young's Point on Tuesday afternoon, has arrived.

The fighting on Monday lasted from six A. M. to nine P. M., when there was a cessation of hostilities to bury the dead.

The battle was renewed on Tuesday morning, but no particulars had reached Young's Point.

But few if any batteries had been taken.

Shells from General Sherman's siege guns come over into the city, as can be seen from the fort.

General Banks' forces had not arrived.

Forty-four hundred prisoners are expected here to-night, and will be sent to Indianapolis.

Official Despatch of Commodore Porter.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1863.

The following telegram was received at the Navy Department to-day:

FLORISSA BLACK HAWK, MISSOURI SAILBOAT, }
NRAK VICKSBURG, May 25, via Cairo May 30, 1863.

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy:—

I have the honor to inform you that the expedition under the command of Lieutenant Commander Walker, after taking possession of the forts at Haines' Bluff, was perfectly successful.

Three powerful steamers and a ram were destroyed at Yazoo City. The ram was a monster, 210 feet long, 10 feet beam, and covered with four inch iron plates. Also, a fine navy yard, with machine shops of all kinds, saw-mills, blacksmiths' shops, &c., were burned up.

The property destroyed and captured amounted to over two millions of dollars.

Had the monster ram been finished she would have given us some trouble.

One battery was destroyed at Drury's Bluff.

Our loss on the expedition was one killed and seven wounded.

DAVID D. PORTER.

Acting Rear Admiral, Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

THE BATTLE OF CHAMPION HILLS.

Another Account of this Brilliant Affair.

CORRESPONDENCE OF MR. H. B. RANDOLPH KEIM.

REMARKS BY THE HON. H. B. RANDOLPH KEIM.

BATTLEFIELD OF CHAMPION HILLS, May 16, 1863.

A SEVERE CONTEST—The Battle for a Long Time Doubtful—Crocket's Division Saves the Day—Great Rout of the Rebels—Heavy Loss on Both Sides—General McPherson—Medical Department—Dr. J. H. Bowser, &c.

From the success of our forces at Jackson, leaving General Sherman in possession of the city, in order to complete the triumph, the main body of the troops engaged in that action reversed its direction of advance, and marched upon the enemy's position near the Big Black river. The advantage gained at Jackson, having resulted in the division of the adversary's force—part lying north of Jackson, having retreated to Canton, and the remainder between us and Vicksburg—the ultimate success of the campaign cannot be questioned. The enemy is disconcerted in his plans; for he did not anticipate our movement against Jackson first; and as a consequence, bewildered by the completeness of our attacks, the complications of our plans, the invincibility of our soldiers, and above all the well digested plan of operations, his army is hastily fleeing towards the North, out of danger, and towards his strong positions on the Big Black, where, with but a remnant of a routed, disorganized and demoralized force, he proposes to make his last desperate opposition to the progress of our advance against the impregnable stronghold at Vicksburg. The manner of his retreat, according to information gathered from the people, was anything but encouraging, and the most cheerful of his friends grew despondent. With an enemy thus ill-conditioned for a fight, we left Jackson to attack his force driven towards Vicksburg.

THE JUNCTION OF THE SEVENTEENTH AND THIRTIETH CORPS.

From Jackson to the location of the action of to-day is twenty miles. Sixteen out of the twenty were marched yesterday by the troops of this corps, bringing them within convenient proximity to bring on an engagement to-day. During the whole of yesterday the troops of McPherson's corps were in position, for it was evident, upon reliable information, that the enemy was moving, designing to bring on an attack by marching out to meet us before the rest could come up. The object in view when the positions of yesterday were taken was merely to repel an attack, if it came, and if not to await the arrival of McPherson's corps, when a combined movement should be made upon the enemy's position.

THE JUNCTION OF THE SEVENTEENTH AND THIRTIETH CORPS.

Considered defensively the positions of McPherson's corps were equal to the purpose. Batteries covering the left, with his troops well under cover and his batteries upon commanding eminences controlling a road upon which, five miles further on, the enemy's cavalry, five hundred strong, were seen early in the morning making hostile demonstrations. The road thus held intersected the main road in the rear of our army. In the center General Hovey commanded, and took well protected positions, while the right was held by General Blair.

On the morning of the same day General A. T. Lee, formerly of the Seventh Kansas cavalry, made his appearance upon the field, in pursuance of orders to report to General McPherson. Being familiar with cavalry operations, General McPherson at once dispatched General Lee on a reconnaissance to discover, if possible, the intentions of the enemy. He several times saw their pickets, and in one instance a body of infantry in line of battle. Unmolested, with his glass, he studied their movements, which seemed to be those of preparation for an attack. The General also drew up a chart of the route traversing the country over which he traveled, and then returned. The result of the reconnaissance was very satisfactory, and had much to do with the movements of the Thirtieth corps to-day.

AT FIVE O'CLOCK YESTERDAY AFTERNOON the advance of McPherson's corps made its appearance, and the junction of the two commands was made. We were then in a condition to take up once more the offensive. The divisions of Logan and Crocker were the only ones of the corps present; that of McArthur arrived this afternoon from Grand Gulf, having been left in charge of army stores accumulated there.

THE ADVANCE.

The morning found everything in order for the fight. The troops intended for the action were formed in heavy columns along the respective routes of march towards the enemy. The men and officers were fresh after a good night's rest, and in high spirits as to the issue of the trying contest in which they were soon to participate. In addition to all this, Sherman's corps was rapidly moving in this direction, and by the time of action was within supporting distance, and still moving to co-operate with us in the movements which are to succeed the triumph of to-day.

THE ADVANCE.

During the night a part of McPherson's corps went forward several miles, it having the advantage for a time, and halted before the enemy, deployed in line of battle and came to a rest, to await the disposition of this corps, which was to take the right. In order to take this position it was necessary to move somewhat off the road through a country considerably broken by irregularities of surface. However, by ten o'clock the ground was reached, disposition of the troops made, and everything in readiness to commence the action.

POSITIONS PRIOR TO THE FIGHT.

The order of formation and attack chosen by our commanders was admirable, and resulted in an unimpeachable victory on our part. In the front, immediately on the right of the principal road to the Big Black river bridge, Hovey's division of McPherson's corps was deployed into line along a ridge facing the enemy's positions. The division of Logan's division was deployed the division of Gen. A. J. Smith, his right leaning somewhat to the rear. On the right of this division lay that of Gen. John A. Logan, of the Seventeenth corps, with General M. D. Leggett on the left, General John E. Smith in the center, both in line of battle, inclining to the rear, and on the extreme right, in column by division, lay the brigade of General Stevenson. In the rear, at a short distance, as a reserve, General Crocker occupied a protected position to await the development of the struggle.

Our artillery, numbering forty pieces, occupied eminences at various points on the field, in positions to fire over the heads of our troops in line.

THE ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY.

It was decidedly in the enemy's favor. His infantry was drawn up, from appearance, in two bodies on the same line, partly covered by a thick wood. His artillery, in commanding situations, stood out prominently, and was directed upon all parts of the battle ground. One position in particular he occupied which commanded the whole field the entire course of artillery range. This was the scene of the most sanguinary struggle during the battle.

THE ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY.

The action opened with skirmishing of a trifling nature as early as seven this morning, the division of Gen. Hovey being engaged. The object here was to keep the enemy's attention and defer a general engagement until the rest of the troops had taken their respective positions. This was done in a few hours, and the battle was ready to begin.

THE ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY.

At eleven o'clock, like a terrific burst of thunder, all of a sudden the booming of big cannon broke upon the comparatively trifling nature of the action, and gave utterance to the general opening of the conflict. The enemy in an instant caught up the sound and returned it from the mouths of as many pieces. The artillery on both sides nobly strained every energy. The battle had fairly begun. Flying projectiles could be heard everywhere, whistling through the air like the rush of a heavy wind. The explosion of shells on every side, added to the roar of artillery and the firing fragments of iron and shattered trees, rendered the scene one of terror. The combined fire of both armies was deafening, and sounded to those engaged even more terrible than Shiloh. During the engagement of the artillery the infantry were silent, passive spectators of the scene. Consequently during the time they occupied the fight was not of that general, that promiscuous character which the engagement of infantry naturally involves.

THE ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY.

Shortly after midday the infantry was brought into action by a charge upon a strong position, an eminence occupied by a battery supported heavily by infantry. The charge was admirably made. Through a perfect sheet of shot, shell and musket balls they rushed to the summit of the hill, drove the battery and with a yell rushed down the other side of the hill, the enemy fleeing before them in a perfect panic. As fast as the men could beat running they delivered their fire into the dense masses of the retreating foe. Nothing was more in our favor than the events of these delightful moments. Artillery horses, limbers, ammunition wagons, officers and panic-stricken soldiers were crowded in a confused body in a cut, which was necessary in the road to make the descent and ascent of the hill practicable to the fugitives. This stayed the retreat and gave us an opportunity to make most appalling havoc in the enemy's ranks.

THE ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY.

Of a sudden, on the left, emerging from a wood near the road upon which our forces were pursuing the retreating enemy, the foe appeared in large masses upon McPherson's flank. The situation of our troops was appalling. Gunner numbers, fresh from a shady position in the woods, and vigorous after a long rest, now bore down upon our men, pausing from heat and excessive exertion, suffocated by clouds of dust and broken by the very natural circumstances of the charge. What was to be done? The existence of the command depended upon the action of a moment—to charge front and receive the enemy or to fall back. The question was of life or death—the selection to be made in an instant. Wavering our forces desisted from the pursuit and fell back.

THE ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY.

Our left, overwhelmed, gave way; the remainder of the line soon followed, and the enemy was once more in possession of the most important position. This charge was most magnificent. The steadiness and firmness with which the men advanced up the slope of the hill, with bayonets fixed and in the face of projectiles of all kinds and dimensions, without firing a musket, was wonderful, and the consummation of human bravery.

THE ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY.

The reconnoitering of the hill by the driving back of the brigade of General McPherson put this command out of the fight for the remainder of the day. Its place was filled by the Reserve division, under General Crocker, who hastily threw his troops in the breach occasioned in our line by the reverses suffered by the troops of Gen. McPherson, thus saving us the disaster of defeat, and maintaining once more the confidence of our men.

THE ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY.

One of the most important features in the efficient organization of this army is the excellent arrangement made for the treatment of the sick and wounded. To effect this there has been recently organized an ambulance corps to each division, which is under the superintendence of a commissioned officer, and under him is a sufficient number of sergeants and privates to complete the necessary force. In event of a battle this corps is on the field, attending to the necessities of the wounded, who are first made comfortable by simple applications on

THE BATTLE OF CHAMPION HILLS.

Immediately to the rescue of the retreating troops of McPherson's corps rushed the brigade of Col. Bowser. They soon gained the summit, and a fire even more terrible than that which sustained in the first attack. McPherson was now safe, and the enemy once more dislodged, but not driven off. Now commenced the most severely contested struggle of the day; for the possession of this hill was to decide the contest. Admitting this, the enemy in his dispositions brought all his artillery to bear here, and made every effort to secure it. Equally determined were our troops to hold the position.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

After a severe contest of at least thirty minutes the possession of Colonel Bowser's command was nearly exhausted, but he finally maintained his ground with the bayonet where his men had expended all their powder. It was not long before General Crocker brought up the brigade of Colonel Holmes, and the fight went on even more vigorously than before. The enemy soon exhibited signs of weakness and a disposition to give way.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

No sooner did this become evident than Colonel Holmes pushed forward at a charge. Perceiving the movement, the enemy broke and fled in every direction, numbers taking to the woods. The loss sustained here by the fugitives was alarming. Behind every tree, every stump, word of undergrowth, in the ravines, on the road—in fact, wherever every word could be seen men either dead or in the agonies of fearful wounds; and were to be heard inspiring cries for help from those suffering under the tortures of shattered bones and lacerated flesh and the festering influence of a scorching sun. Nor is this the loss applicable to us. Our loss in the severe struggle for the possession of the hill was equally as severe as that of the enemy, and probably, whereas fact is known, will be somewhat more. At whatever cost, the hill was now irretrievably ours, and with it the battery which the enemy had posted upon its summit.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

Let us now turn our attention to the right. About the time the assault upon the hill was going on General Logan ordered another charge, which was to be against the enemy's left, which lay on a ridge immediately in front of our right. For this duty General Stevenson was assigned, and with him his brigade. His command was at once deployed into line, its first formation being in column. To reach the enemy it was necessary to cross a deep and wide spreading ravine, subject immediately to advance to the enemy's fire. When the order to advance came he set forward slowly, descending the declivity and crossing the flat of the ravine. Upon reaching the base of the activity on the other side, this men moved off at double quick, with bayonets gleaming before them, at a charge. It was not many moments before they were upon the enemy's position, and the latter could be seen falling back hastily and forming a new line beyond a road which ran off to the right a short distance along the hill secured by the two brigades of Crocker's division. Up to this time the troops were successful in taking a battery which had been manning them considerably. A few moments respite, to take breath, and Stevenson again pushed forward, obliging somewhat to the right, he soon struck the enemy's left, which immediately broke the whole line and set it moving in parties all over the field.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

Stevenson had scarcely strengthened himself in his new position on the enemy's left than he was almost overwhelmed, not by organized force, but a crowd of terror-stricken infantry and artillery. When Colonel Holmes made his charge from the hill, the enemy's right broke and took across the fields and down the road. Stevenson at the same time on the right scattered the enemy's left and was driving him the other way. It was not long before the entire rebel army was in the wildest confusion, for the collision of its right and left, when driven to the centre, gave it a shock from which it could not recover.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

Thirteen pieces of artillery and twenty-five hundred prisoners crowned the triumph. In killed their loss at the lowest estimation will amount to three hundred and one thousand wounded. Three columns, two majors and a great number of line officers were among the prisoners. Colonel Harris, of a Georgia regiment, has had his leg amputated, but his survival of the operation is doubtful. A large number of rebel wounded brought into hospital have already died from their wounds, and many more will follow before morning. Our entire loss, as far as learned, is four hundred killed and at least twelve hundred wounded. Among the killed is Colonel Hovey, of a Missouri regiment; Lieut. Colonel Scott, Sixty-eighth Ohio, and Major Brown, Twenty-sixth Missouri. In line officers killed and wounded our loss is comparatively small.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

The moment the retreat of the enemy was certain, Carr's division of McPherson's corps was sent in pursuit, and followed him closely, inflicting occasional loss, until he was within his fortifications upon the Big Black river. Then, forming in line, the troops rested on their arms. At this moment everything is quiet. The rest of McPherson's corps is now moving up, and will at once make preparations for the attack of the enemy in the morning.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

I cannot say too much in praise of the General commanding in the action to-day. After the overwhelming forces of Hovey's division retreated down the hill and were relieved by the fresh troops of Crocker, with the exception of a few regiments on our left which were not engaged, the battle was sustained by the troops of the Seventeenth (McPherson's) corps. As the object of the maneuvering this corps is a new actor in the drama of the war, a few facts recently mentioned may not be here amiss.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

JAMES T. McPHERSON was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, November 14, 1829, and entered the United States Military Academy at West Point as a cadet in June, 1849. He graduated with honors in June, 1853, and was promoted to brevet second lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, United States Army, July 1, 1853. In July, 1853, he was made assistant instructor of practical military engineering at the Military Academy, and acted in that capacity until September, 1854. In September, 1854, he was employed as assistant engineer on defenses of New York harbor until December, 1856. In December, 1856, he was made full second lieutenant of engineers, and was in charge of the construction of Fort Delaware, Delaware, from January, 1857, to July, 1857, and later in charge of the construction of fortifications on Alcatraz Island, San Francisco Bay, California, and surveys on the Pacific coast, from December, 1857, to August, 1861. He was promoted to first lieutenant of engineers December, 1858, and to captain August, 1861. At the latter date he was placed in superintendence of the fortifications of Boston harbor until November, 1861. At that time he was appointed aide-camp to Major General Halleck, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, employed chiefly on engineer duty in Missouri. Later he was assigned to General Grant as chief engineer of the expedition against Forts Henry and Donelson, and remained with him during the operations up the Tennessee river and until after the battle of Shiloh. On May 1, 1862, he was assigned to camp, with the rank of colonel, on General Halleck's staff, and employed as engineer during our operations against Corinth. He was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers May 15, 1862. In June, 1862, the General was appointed by General Halleck superintendent of United States military railroads in the Department of West Tennessee. At the battle of Look-al he was General Grant's staff, and after the battle of Corinth was in command of a division in pursuit of the enemy, in his retreat after his disastrous repulse at that place. On October 8, 1862, General McPherson received the appointment of major general, and was assigned to the command of the United States forces at Sullivan, Tenn. In the campaign through North Mississippi the General took a prominent part. His assignment to the command of the Seventeenth corps dates from January 11, 1863. Since then his command has figured in all the important occurrences of the war in the Southwest.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

One of the most important features in the efficient organization of this army is the excellent arrangement made for the treatment of the sick and wounded. To effect this there has been recently organized an ambulance corps to each division, which is under the superintendence of a commissioned officer, and under him is a sufficient number of sergeants and privates to complete the necessary force. In event of a battle this corps is on the field, attending to the necessities of the wounded, who are first made comfortable by simple applications on

THE BATTLE OF CHAMPION HILLS.

the field, and then placed in ambulances and conveyed to the division hospital, which is near the field as safety will admit.

In charge of the medical department of this corps is Dr. J. H. Bowser, the most efficient and energetic officer of the kind in this army. His action in alleviating the pain of the wounded in this battle was so prompt and perfect that General Grant waited upon him in person, and remarked that he was the most efficient medical officer in his command.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

In regard to the other corps the same might be said. The wounded were never allowed to remain on the field longer than a few hours. So much for humanity.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

That the fighting brigade, being cut off from the rest of the enemy's position, is making its way towards Fort Hudson. The rest of the army has made another stand at Big Black river. A large line of earthworks have been thrown up here. It is our intention to make an attack on them in the morning.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

THE FIGHT AT BIG BLACK RIVER BRIDGE.

CORRESPONDENCE OF DEB. RANDOLPH KEIM.

IN CAMP, NEAR BIG BLACK RIVER BRIDGE, May 17, 1863.

The Affair Seen Over—The Enemy Flees the Enemy, Taking Many Prisoners than He Lost—The Bridge Destroyed by the Enemy—They Retire to the Fortifications Around the City.

The rebels of the rebel at Champion Hills yesterday opened an unprovoked war to the eastwards of the enemy on the Big Black river. Our force, closely pursuing them, bivouacked in front of their position to await daylight this morning.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

At sunrise the divisions of Carr, on the left, Osterhaus in the center, and brigade of Lawler on the right, advanced close to the enemy's works, and opened a fire of artillery from the center. The enemy had in position seventeen light field pieces, with which he played upon our lines, with but little effect, aside from the blowing up of a caisson and the wounding of Gen. Osterhaus, who at the time was engaged in sighting one of the guns of his battery.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

General Lee was assigned to the command of the division. While the center was engaging the enemy's attention in front, General M. K. Lawler defied his command on the right through a road and deployed into line, whereupon he made a direct assault upon the enemy's position, carrying it with a trifling loss in wounded. In this attack the enemy lost twenty-five hundred men, prisoners and all their artillery.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

As many as could effect their escape before the command came up did so, but their number was few. In their retreat the enemy destroyed the bridge and freight cars across the river and set with their own hands, in order to stay our further pursuit of them.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

Batteries were soon brought up and commenced shelling their positions on the other side. Though a few tents were to be seen, with the exception of his sharpshooters, it is believed the enemy has fallen completely back to the city.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

In the action of to-day the enemy displayed great demoralization. He seemed entirely devoid of a determination to dispute the possession of his boasted stronghold. It is not possible that his intention is to entice us towards the city and come in upon our rear from the east, for his divided force is too small, and the possibility of a junction is out of the question. It is probable, upon reaching the city, several days will be spent in testing the strength of the work and making reconnoissances.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

A movement of the troops upon Vicksburg will be made as soon as the bridges across the river are completed. Each corps is expected to make the necessary arrangements for its own crossing. McPherson's is to cross at the railroad bridge, McPherson five miles higher up the stream, and Sherman six miles above the latter. The engineers of each corps are now busy preparing bridges. It is presumed that the army will commence crossing in the morning.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

It is with pain we report the wounding of Colonel W. H. Kinman, of the Twenty-sixth Iowa. He was shot twice—once through the stomach, and again through the left leg. He is rapidly sinking, and will die, it is thought, during the night. This constitutes our only loss, as the remainder of the wounded will recover, considering the excellent treatment given them.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

The troops upon this as upon every other occasion, behaved with great gallantry.

We learn from prisoners that the rebel General Tighman was killed in the fight of yesterday.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF VICKSBURG.

CORRESPONDENCE OF MR. A. H. HODMAN.

NEAR VICKSBURG, May 22, 1863.

THIS is the fourth day the army of General Grant has lain around the intrenchments of Vicksburg. Within that time there have been daily battles and continual cannonading. At least two thousand of our soldiers have been placed hors de combat, killed and wounded, in the several charges ordered against the earthworks.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

A BOMBARDMENT ORDERED AND CARRIED OUT.

It was rumored yesterday that this morning General Grant would order a charge simultaneously along the entire line of works. Late in the evening the commanders of the different corps, divisions and brigades received their orders and prepared to execute them. The order contemplated a fierce cannonade from daylight until ten o'clock, but for some unexplained reason it was not opened until after eight.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

During the night, however, the gunboats and mortars lying in front of Vicksburg kept up continual fire, and dropped their fire messengers right and left without distinction.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

THE CITY BELIEVED FIRST.

During this bombardment several buildings were set on fire by the exploding shells, and lighted up the darkness, revealing strange shapes and wonderful outlines standing out in relief against the dark sky, which added wonderful interest to the bombardment as witnessed by the distant observer. It is impossible to estimate the damage occasioned by thus dropping into Vicksburg those heavy eleven and thirteen inch shells. Imagination falls far short of its reality.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

WHERE THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF VICKSBURG ARE.

Before we approached the city the General Commanding ordered all the women and children for miles around Vicksburg to come within the intrenchments, assuring them that in that way they would escape all danger. The consequence is that there are a large number of non-combatants in Vicksburg, exposed to all the dangers of siege and bombardment.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

At eight o'clock this morning, according to programme, the cannonading began, and continued with scarcely a moment's intermission, along the entire line until ten o'clock. From every hill top in front of the enemy's works cannon were placed, and the fiery tempest raged furiously. Guns were dismounted, embrasures torn out, parapets destroyed, and caissons exploded. It was a fearful demonstration. The enemy were powerless to reply for our line of skirmishers were pushed up close to the enemy's works, and unerringly picked off the gunners whenever they attempted to work the guns.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

For two long hours did this cannonade continue, when on the left, in Smith's, Carr's and Osterhaus' divisions, a charge was made. Winding through the valleys, clambering over the hills everywhere subjected to a murderous, unrelenting and cruel fire, they pressed up close to the rebel works to find that a deep ditch, protected by sharp stakes along the outer edge, lay between them and the intrenchments. They planned their flag directly before the fort, and crouched down behind the embankment, out of range of the rebel fire, as calmly as possible, to await developments. The soldiers within the fort could not raise above the parapet to fire at them, for if they did a hundred bullets came whizzing through the air and the adventurers died.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

A REBEL ROLLED DOWN THE HILL.

They adopted another plan. Taking a shell, they set the fuse close off, lighted it and rolled it over the outer slope of the embankment.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

HOW THE FORT WAS TAKEN—OUR LOSS.

Subsequently, with shells and shovels, a way was dug into the fort.

WHAT IS DOING IN CANADA.

Our Special Correspondence.

MONTREAL, May 20, 1863.

Celebration of the Queen's Birthday—British Volunteers—The Grenadier Guard and Scotch Fusiliers—Scotch in Battle—Henry Clay's Son in Want of Employment, with Other Anecdotes—Montreal Table Talk—Maryland I, My Maryland! &c., &c.

Her Majesty's birthday was celebrated here on Monday and was made a festival very much like a Fourth of July in reduced circumstances, with popular excursions, squibs, crackers and a pyrotechnical display at night. There was a parade and review, and a portion of that was as the case it is possible for a military display to be. The Montreal Volunteer infantry was decidedly so, the volunteer artillery was better, but the brigade of the Guard was splendid. This organization is made up of the Scotch Fusilier Guard, the Grenadier Guard, the Sixteenth regiment of infantry and a field battery of breech loaders. Certainly the Guard, as seen on parade